



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arizona Department of Public Safety Gang Immigration and Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission Operation Full Court Press Update

This news release provides update information on enforcement activity from the Arizona Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Gang Immigration and Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (G.I.I.T.E.M.) Arizona Border Strike Force's (ABSF) Operation Full Court Press. As part of the state-wide enforcement efforts to detect narcotics trafficking within the State of Arizona, DPS Officers from the Northern Division conducted the following investigations:

On Thursday, March 1, 2007, at approximately 1240 hours, an Arizona Department of Public Safety K-9 Officer initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 17 Milepost 294, on a 2001 Chevrolet extended cab pick up truck for a traffic violation. During the traffic stop, the Officer observed indicators consistent with trafficking in illegal contraband. Consent to search was obtained from the driver. The Officer deployed his K-9 partner who alerted on the front portion of the load bed of the vehicle. A search of this area of the vehicle revealed a false compartment, which contained \$292,540.00 in U.S. Currency. The driver of the vehicle was interviewed and stated that his ultimate destination was Mexico and denied any knowledge and disclaimed the large quantity of cash. The driver was released and the vehicle and cash were seized.

On Thursday, March 1, 2007, an Arizona Department of Public Safety Highway Patrol Officer initiated a traffic stop on a commercial vehicle for traffic violations. During the traffic stop, the Officer observed indicators consistent with trafficking in illegal contraband. As the officer conducted the inspection of the truck, he located 1577 pounds of Marijuana located in the trailer of the vehicle. The vehicle was destined for Detroit, Michigan. The street value of the Marijuana located was determined to be worth approximately 3.1 million dollars in the Detroit, Michigan area.

Follow up investigations are being conducted in a cooperative effort with Arizona Department of Public Safety Criminal Investigations, the Arizona Department of Public Safety K-9 District, the Partners Against Narcotics Trafficking Task Force, and the Yavapai County Attorney's Office.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agency in Arizona, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies.

The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 30 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.